

CLAIMS

1. A system for learning playing of a musical instrument without a teacher, the system comprising:

5 a series of lessons stored in a computer program;

each lesson being programmed to include:

automatic dynamic playing of at least one learning passage by a computer; and

10 a period of silence of a predefined length relative to said learning passage, for playing of said learning passage by a student on a musical instrument.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each said lesson includes a plurality of parameters, and said system includes means for selectively changing each of said parameters by the student.

15 3. The system according to claim 2, wherein each lesson includes: dynamic playing of a series of learning passages by a computer; and periods of silence of a predefined length relative to said learning passage after playing of each learning passage for playing of that learning passage by said student.

20 4. The system according to claim 1, wherein each learning passage includes a series of tones arranged in a pre-selected order.

25 5. The system according to claim 4, further comprising a database of tones, from which said tones are accessed and played, one at a time, during said dynamic playing.

6. The system according to claim 4, and further a database of graphic musical elements for representing said series of tones graphically as a series of notes on a screen.

7. The system according to claim 4, further comprising a graphic illustration of finger positions on an instrument corresponding to dynamic playing of said series of tones in said learning passage.

8. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a composition portion including means for activating, by means of a button, at least one composition command to compose a song.

9. The system according to claim 8, wherein said computer includes means for automatically representing graphically on a screen a result of said composition command.

10. The system according to claim 8, wherein said at least one composition command includes a name of a tone, and said computer includes means for inserting a note representing said tone in a correct location on a staff.

11. The system according to claim 8, wherein said composed song is stored in said computer and can be played by the computer in said playing portion and by said student during said period of silence.

12. The system according to claim 8, wherein said means for activating composition commands includes:

a display of seven basic notes;

a display of at least two note lengths;

selection means for selecting a basic note and a note length for adding to a song; and

means in said computer for automatically displaying said selected basic note of said selected note length in a correct location on a displayed staff.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein said means for activating
5 further comprises a display of musical elements, including at least one of:

time signatures;

at least one rest;

bar lines;

said selection means being arranged to select said displayed musical elements.

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14. The system according to claim 12, wherein said means for activating further includes a display of chords, said selection means being arranged to select one of said chords.

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15. The system according to claim 12, wherein said selection means is selected from the group including a mouse, a touch screen, and a computer keyboard.

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16. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a help field for displaying one of: a current beat number in a bar of a song being composed; or an instruction to insert a bar line.

17. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a help field for displaying error messages in calculating number of beats.

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18. The system according to claim 1, wherein said musical instrument is independent of said computer.

19. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a display of at least one of the following parameters in a practice screen:

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a) number of bars in said learning passage;

- b) tempo of said dynamic playing;
- c) length of said break portion;
- d) automatic or manual play;
- e) chord play;
- f) melody play; and

means for selectively changing at least one of said parameters by the student.

20. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a display of at least one of the following options in a practice screen:

- a) a demo of a complete song formed of a plurality of said learning passages;
- b) a practice mode selector for dividing a song into at least two learning passages of pre-selected length for automatic dynamic playing by said computer; and
- c) return to start.

21. The system according to claim 1, wherein said learning passage includes a series of graphic notes and associated audio tones, each note being stored in the computer as a data string.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein said data string further includes chord data.

23. A method for learning playing of a musical instrument without a teacher, the method comprising:

- causing a computer to dynamically play at least one learning passage; and
- causing said computer to stop playing, for a predefined length of time relative to said learning passage, for playing of said learning passage by a student on the musical instrument.

24. The method according to claim 23, wherein each said learning passage includes a plurality of graphical notes and associated audio tones, and said step of dynamically playing includes causing said computer to retrieve said plurality of notes and associated tones, one after another, and play said tones in a predetermined order while displaying a graphical representation of said learning passage on a computer screen.

25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising highlighting each note substantially at the time of playing the tone represented by said note.

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein each of said graphical notes is represented as a data string.

27. The method according to claim 23, further comprising displaying a graphic illustration of finger positions on an instrument required to play said series of tones in said learning passage, substantially at the time of playing said learning passage.

28. The method according to claim 23, further comprising:
providing seven buttons on a computer display, each button representing a different basic note;
providing means for selecting at least one of said buttons by said student; and
causing said computer to display the note represented by said selected button on a staff, so as to compose a song.

29. The method according to claim 28, further comprising:
displaying at least two note lengths;
providing means for selecting one of said note lengths; and
causing the computer to display the selected basic note having said selected note length.

30. The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

dividing said composed song into at least two learning passages;

causing said computer to dynamically play said learning passages; and

5 causing said computer to stop playing after each said learning passage, for a predefined length of time relative to said learning passage, for playing of said learning passage by a student on the musical instrument.

31. The method according to claim 28, further comprising:

10 displaying at least two chords;

providing means for selecting one of said chords; and

causing the computer to display the selected chord name over said selected note.

15 32. The method according to claim 28, wherein said means for selecting is selected from a mouse, a touch screen, and a keyboard.

33. The method according to claim 28, further comprising causing the computer to automatically define a period in a song.

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34. The method according to claim 33, wherein said computer automatically ends a period at a fourth bar line in said song, when said song does not include a pick-up.

25 35. The method according to claim 33, wherein said computer automatically ends a period after one note beyond a fourth bar line in said song, when said song includes a pick-up.

36. A system for composing music on a computer, the system comprising means for activating in a computer, by means of a button, at least one composition command to compose a song.

37. The system according to claim 36, further comprising:
seven buttons displayed on a computer display, each button representing a different basic note;
means for selecting at least one of said buttons by said student; and
means for causing said computer to display the note represented by said selected button on a staff, so as to compose a song.

38. The system according to claim 37, further comprising:
at least two note lengths displayed on said computer display;
said means for selecting being arranged to select one of said note lengths from said displayed note lengths for display by the computer; and
means for causing the computer to display the selected basic note having said selected note length.

39. The system according to claim 37, further comprising:
at least two chords displayed on said computer display;
said means for selecting being arranged to select one of said chords from said displayed chords for display by the computer; and
means for causing the computer to display the selected chord name over said selected note.

40. The system according to claim 37, wherein said means for selecting is selected from a mouse, a touch screen, and a keyboard.

41. The system according to claim 37, further comprising a display of musical elements, including at least one of:

time signatures;

at least one rest;

bar lines;

5 said means for selecting being arranged to select from said displayed musical elements for display by the computer.

42. The system according to claim 36, further comprising a help field for displaying one of: a current beat number in a bar of a song being composed; or an instruction to insert a bar line.

10 43. The system according to claim 36, further comprising a help field for displaying error messages in calculating number of beats.

15 44. The system according to claim 36, further comprising a printer for printing a composed song.

45. A method for composing music on a computer, the method comprising: activating, by means of a button, at least one composition command in a computer to compose a song.

20 46. The method according to claim 45, further comprising: providing seven buttons on a computer display, each button representing a different basic note;

25 providing means for selecting at least one of said buttons by said student; and causing said computer to display the note represented by said selected button on a staff, so as to compose a song.

47. The method according to claim 46, further comprising:

displaying at least two note lengths;

30 providing means for selecting one of said note lengths; and

causing the computer to display the selected basic note having said selected note length.

48. The method according to claim 46, further comprising:
displaying at least two chords;
providing means for selecting one of said chords; and
causing the computer to display the selected chord name over said selected note.

49. The method according to claim 46, wherein said means for selecting is selected from a mouse, a touch screen, and a keyboard.

50. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:
displaying musical elements, including at least one of:
time signatures;
at least one rest;
bar lines;
causing said computer to display a musical element selected from said displayed musical elements.

51. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:
automatically displaying one of: a current beat number in a bar of a song being composed; or an instruction to insert a bar line.

52. The method according to claim 37, further comprising:
automatically displaying error messages in calculating number of beats.

53. The method according to claim 46, further comprising printing a composed song.

54. The method according to claim 46, further comprising storing a composed song on a memory medium.

55. The method according to claim 46, further comprising transferring a
5 composed song over a communication line to another computer.

56. The system according to claim 1, further comprising a remote control unit for inputting user commands.

10 57. The method according to claim 23, wherein said steps of causing include inputting user commands by means of a remote control unit.

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